

**Amendments to the Claims:**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

**Listing of Claims:**

1. (currently amended) A heat-conducting support for a round or curved bottom vessel, comprising:

a metallic unit having an inner portion, an outer portion, and a base for placement on a heating element;

wherein said inner portion has no apertures and is concavely curved to support a vessel having a round or curved bottom;

wherein said outer portion adjoins said inner portion at an upper location remote from a bottom of said inner portion; ~~and~~

wherein said outer portion extends away from said upper location of said inner portion toward said base and merges with said base; and

wherein at least one of said inner portion, said outer portion, and said base comprises a multi-layer sheet of metal.

2. (original) A heat-conducting support according to claim 1, wherein said metallic unit is made of heat conductive and essentially non-magnetic metal.

3. (original) A heat-conducting support according to claim 2, wherein said metal is aluminum or copper.

4. (deleted)

5. (deleted)

6. (original) A heat-conducting support according to claim 1, wherein said outer portion tapers outwardly from said upper location toward said base.

7. (original) A heat-conducting support according to claim 1, wherein said outer portion extends essentially cylindrically from said upper location toward said base.

8. (Deleted)

9. (original) A heat-conducting support according to claim 1, wherein said base is substantially flat.

10. (original) A heat-conducting support according to claim 1, wherein said inner portion and said outer portion are a monolithic component, and wherein said base is a separate component to which said outer portion is connected.

11. (original) A heat-conducting support according to claim 1, wherein said base extends radially outwardly from where said outer portion merges with said base.

12. (original) A heat-conducting support according to claim 11, wherein said inner portion, said outer portion, and said base are a monolithic component.

13. (original) A heat-conducting support according to claim 1, wherein said base is formed by a lower part of said outer portion remote from said upper location of said inner portion.

14. (original) A heat-conducting support according to claim 1, wherein said outer portion has a circular cross-sectional configuration, and said base is square.

15. (original) A heat-conducting support according to claim 1, wherein said bottom of said inner portion is curved or has a small flat section.

16. (original) A heat-conducting support according to claim 15, wherein said bottom of said inner portion is disposed in a plane of said base or is spaced from such a plane.

17. (previously presented) A heat-conducting support according to claim 1, wherein said heating element is an electrical hot plate having a flat surface.

18. (previously presented) A heat-conducting support according to claim 1, wherein said inner portion and said outer portion define a space that is open in a direction away from where said inner and outer portions adjoin one another.